

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 17-24 and 27 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calon et al. (US 2002/0118538-"Calon") in view of Anderson (US 5,575,459). Claims 9-15 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calon in view of Chan (US 2003/0021117).

The effective prior art date of Calon is its earliest U.S. filing date, which is January 31, 2002.

The present application is based on a Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) application, filed January 3, 2003, which claims priority to German patent application DE 102 00 778, which was filed January 10, 2002. Thus, Calon can be disqualified as a reference against the present invention by filing a verified English-language translation of DE 102 00 778. That translation is being prepared, and will be submitted to the USPTO in the near future.

In view of the above, the primary reference Calon is no longer applicable against the present invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to that effect is respectfully solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: February 17, 2010